

The TOPOFF 2 Scenario

The TOPOFF 2 scenario details a hypothetical chain of events that simulates a terrorist campaign employing weapons of mass destruction. The scenario begins a year before the exercise when two terrorist cells begin planning a radiological attack in the Seattle, WA, metropolitan area, and a biological attack in the Chicago region. The scenario provides the context for the exercise, creates the conditions for participants to achieve identified objectives, and provides the technical details necessary to stimulate exercise play.

The exercise will enable top officials and response personnel to practice different courses of action, gain and maintain situational awareness, and deploy appropriate resources. Top Federal officials, State governors, county executives, mayors, and city managers, along with State and local responders, will be key participants and play active roles throughout the exercise.

TOPOFF 2 is part of continuing strategies in obtaining valuable insights to guide future Federal, State, and local WMD response efforts.

The Role of the Office for Domestic Preparedness

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office for Domestic Preparedness (ODP) provides training, equipment, exercises, and technical assistance to the Nation's first responders. TOPOFF 2 is overseen by ODP's Exercise Division, which also manages regional exercise programs to improve the preparedness of U.S. States and territories.

For More Information

Exercises and Training

ODP

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp>

ODP Exercises

<http://www.ojp.gov/odp/exercises/state.htm>

Homeland Security

DHS—Threats and Protection

http://www.dhs.gov/dhpublic/theme_home6.jsp

DHS—Emergencies and Disaster Planning and

Preparation

http://www.dhs.gov/dhpublic/theme_home2.jsp

DHS Public Preparation Guide—Ready.Gov

<http://www.ready.gov>

Strategic National Stockpile

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/stockpile/index.asp>

Biological and RDD Threats

CDC—Agents and Threats

<http://bt.cdc.gov>

CDC Radiation Studies

<http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/radiation/response.htm>

About Radiation—U.S. Nuclear Regulatory

Commission

<http://www.nrc.gov/what-we-do/radiation/about-radiation.html>

TOPOFF 2 Online Press Room

<http://www.topoff2media.net>



**TOPOFF 2 is supported by the U.S.
Department of Homeland Security
and U.S. Department of State.**



“TOPOFF 2 is an important demonstration of the Federal, State, local, and international cooperation that is needed to defeat terrorism and ensure homeland security throughout North America...”

Tom Ridge,
U.S. Secretary of
Homeland Security



An Unprecedented Effort

Top Officials 2 (TOPOFF 2) is the most comprehensive terrorism response exercise ever undertaken in the United States. The full-scale exercise, taking place from May 12 to May 16, 2003, involves more than 100 Federal, State, local, private sector, and Canadian agencies and organizations. They will respond to an orchestrated, multi-point attack: a radiological dispersal device (RDD) explosion in Seattle and a covert biological attack in Chicago.

The exercise consists of simulated weapons of mass destruction (WMD) incidents; there will be no release of any actual agents. While the exercise scenario, extent of damage, and level of threat are based on a hypothetical situation and are not intended as a



"Level A" Personal Protective Equipment

forecast of future terrorist-related events, they do reflect the current threat to the United States.

TOPOFF 2 is the culmination of more than 18 months of planning, including a series of training events that

began in July 2002. Seminars, workshops, distance learning events, and a large-scale game were conducted, each building on lessons learned from previous activities. The full-scale exercise provides a way to put theory to the test in a real-time, real-world environment and gain the in-depth learning that only experience can provide.

A Joint Project of the Departments of Homeland Security and State

The exercise is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Department of State, in partnership with the State of Washington, King County, and the City of Seattle, and the State of Illinois, Cook, Lake, Kane, and DuPage Counties, and the City of Chicago, along with 19 Federal agencies, the American Red Cross, and the National Capital Region, including the District of Columbia, State of Maryland, and Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Government of Canada, the Province of British Columbia, and the City of Vancouver are also playing in TOPOFF 2, focusing on cross-border information flow and health issues.

TOPOFF 2 Goals

The stated goals of TOPOFF 2 are to:

- Improve the Nation's capacity to manage extreme events;
- Create broader frameworks for the operation of expert crisis and consequence management systems;
- Validate authorities, strategies, plans, policies, procedures, and protocols; and
- Build a sustainable, systematic national exercise program to support the national strategy for homeland security.

TOPOFF's Congressional Mandate

In 1998, the U.S. Congress determined that America's top government officials should receive better training to respond to a potentially complex attack involving WMD. To address this challenge, Congress mandated a series of challenging, role-playing exercises involving senior Federal, State, and local officials. The result was TOPOFF, a domestic and international exercise series designed to produce a more effective, coordinated, global response to WMD terrorism.



Emergency Operations Center

The first exercise, TOPOFF 2000, was held in May 2000 in Denver, Colorado, and Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Lessons learned from TOPOFF 2000 have been applied to training and exercise endeavors and have been specifically incorporated into the design of TOPOFF 2.